

URGENT Question on the future of CCMJ

From "Peter Challen" <peterchallen@gmail.com, Date: Mon, March 7, 2016 8:07 am

Dear Associate in the CCMJ network,

CHANGE AHEAD* *YOUR VIEW PLEASE

THE NAMES OF THOSE WHO DO NOT ACKNOWLEDGE THIS REQUEST BY MARCH 31st WILL BE REMOVED FROM THE CCMJ E-LIST

On Saturday May 14th we will determine the future of CCMJ for the reasons set out at the foot of this page.

THE REQUESTS:

*a] PLEASE, if you can, feed in your thoughts on the nature of CCMJ's future contribution to your own witness and how you think it should continue. b] * *Please reply with a simple yes or no* *indicating whether you plan to attend **in London on May 14th - very few acknowledged the earlier notice* * and we need to cancel and save the expense of the room**.* Meeting near Waterloo 10.30-4 - details later.

BACKGROUND TO THE NEED FOR APPRAISAL

1] AT 85 and soon to move to Hindhead in Surrey I will stand down from my enabling role. [I was Chairman until we changed from an organisation to an association in order to avoid 'institutional drive and drag'; and from then I've been the network moderator]

*2] CCMJ has encouraged many people, but received very few reports that might have been of value to others. We have gained no formal acknowledgement from churches; but found rich rapport with many spiritually minded and practical persons concerned with 'principled pragmatism and the political-economy to which we all contribute. *

3] All the issues CCMJ associates have faced and acted upon derived from the 1963 Dundee Report on a 'Wealth - A Christian View', are now far more widely recognised.

*4] BUT: THE NETWORK WE HAVE GENERATED **CONTINUES REFLECTING* on the value of three perspectives in the quest for inclusive justice. Inevitably there is overlap between each mode of approach. Each and all add richness to our searching:

*1. **The Christian Council for Monetary Justice [CCMJ]*** – examining enduring wisdom and contemporary evidence about money and its effect on society – utilising resources of the enduring wisdom like current evidence, scriptures, histories, valued publications <http://www.ccmj.org>

*2. **London Global Open Table [LGOT]*** – providing an open forum for serving a wider network with a point of weekly reference. All are welcome to send items for 'Matters in the Air' to indicate where our dialogue and action might take us each week: <http://www.globaltable.org.uk/wp>

*3. **Trustees All: The Independent Constitutionalists UK*** – advocating and advancing a targeted initiative by 'principled pragmatism' to take viable, if difficult, steps towards weaving politics and economics – governance and vital trading – into a People's Political-Economy of Trusteeship in Harmony with Nature. All this in hoping to travel a participative and democratic new path via the 2020 [or earlier] General Election. The ICUK's Manifesto and Charter provide an incremental, imperfect process of evolving a People's Political-Economy of Trusteeship in Harmony of Nature: <http://ww.constitutionalists.uk>

I look forward to hearing from you * - by 31st March please*

Peter

31.03.2016, 23:46, "Gian Andreone"

Dear Peter,

Replying to your message of 7th March 2016.

a) The CCMJ and its activities further my ongoing research into reform initiatives of banking, economics and politics from a grass-roots perspective. I find the weekly newsletter valuable. The future of CCMJ should incorporate the following points (and contributions from others) that need to be decided by the whole list. This is irrespective whether they attend in person or contribute in writing as I have done.

These are my ideas:

- **An appropriate structure** • An organisation limited by guarantee with a written constitution? **Funding:** Can/should the entity be funded? How much per year? Why? •
- Accountability:** A strong governance framework with elected officers to serve the members? This would include annual elections and no one to serve more than two years in same role? •
- A written strategy:** A mission statement, goals and objectives? The AGM includes annual
- **Appraisal?** • **Mission**

Statement: "To champion reform initiatives that decentralise power and resources to the many, not the few and include mechanisms that minimise corruption at all levels of society through effective "checks and balances"? • **Technology:** The appropriate use of technology to maximise member contribution and organisational effectiveness? • **Learning:** A focus on objectivity, empiricism and history? (I am guided by the following quote: "So much of left wing thought is a kind of playing with fire by people who don't even know that fire is hot". Eric Arthur Blair (aka George Orwell) in his book "Inside the Whale", 1940). • **Christianity** "To promote Christianity in accordance with the Holy Bible that is consistent with the 21st Century"?

b) Sorry, not able to attend.

I would be grateful if you would kindly convey my thoughts to the **whole list**, at least two weeks prior to 14 May 2016. Can you also circulate other contributions, with their permission, as I'm curious to see what others are thinking. Thank you for your stewardship of the CCMJ.

Enjoy your retirement!
Best wishes,
G

May 14th Appraisal of CCMJ cancelled:

email from "Peter Challen" <peterchallen@gmail.com, on Fri, April 15, 2016 2:45 am to "Mary Fee" <london@letslink.org "Steve Lancashire" <stevelan@btinternet.com, "Colin Whitmill" <yajniloc@btinternet.com, "Michael Sinclair" <dmsinclair@yahoo.com, "Desmond J Cumberland" <djcumberland@ntlworld.com, "Simon Mouatt" <simonmouatt@rocketmail.com, "Janos Abel" <goodworld@email.com, Cc: "Gian Andreone" <gian.mapr@yandex.com

Dear Friends,

I write to say that the CCMJ Appraisal on the May 14th has been cancelled. **I have had very slender responses to my several emails indicating that I was withdrawing from my enabling role and inviting positive ideas and commitment to the future of CCMJ..**

A week ago there were 29 apologies and 11 acceptances. More than 90 associates on the CCMJ list simply did not reply to my invitations to state their views and their level and manner of

participation. Now come five apologies reducing the acceptances to six. I have no confidence that that constitutes a viable forum when there is so little serious contribution on which to design and conduct a viable Appraisal.

I have cancelled the booking and expect to announce after May 14th that CCMJ has ceased to engage, except through its shared and continuing outreaches of the London Global Open Table and the ICUK initiative in 'principled-pragmatism' to formulate an emerging new People's Political-Economy of Trusteeship in the Harmony of Nature.

We have been suggesting for some time that that new non-partisan, non-violent approach to political-economy on a basis of inclusive common good - the universal approach we agreed at the conclusion of the appraisal last year - was a genuine attempt to translate the concept of the 'Kin[g]dom of God' in terms of contemporary complexity. This is a systemic approach that requires detailed collaboration. and application.

An alternative to the announcement of the closing of CCMJ might arise if any of you decide to initiate your own meeting at a venue of your own choice and are able to devise clear proposals and committed regular enablers in their pursuit. That is your decision and email addresses of those who had set the day aside are above..

Should you take that initiative then Gian Andreone has made some very specific organisational suggestions, though without any indication of his part in achieving their intention. In my view his ideas are not in keeping with our recent modus operandi. You might feel inclined to contact him - I have copied his email among the addressees.

I appreciate the enormous depth and range of the witness of individual associates of CCMJ. I simply regret that we have somehow let slip the collaborative aspects of association under our title. I'll be delighted if any of you continue in dialogue through either or both LGOT and ICUK, both of which continue with their Wednesday focus and through the news sheet of the 200 strong network we've called 'Matters in the Air'.

Yours on the pilgrim's way stretching out ahead in the new life of Eastertide.

Peter

On 15 Apr 2016, at 10:55, Mary Fee wrote:

Dear Peter

Thank you for copying in those who said they would attend on 14th May. I have added John Courtneidge, as I had also discussed CCMJ with him. Pending the decisions that this group would make, I would ask you to preserve the contact details of ALL those on the CCMJ mailing list, and to identify for us those who took the trouble to apologise, as well as those who have not (yet) responded. It is human nature to hold back if you don't see how you can make a contribution, so if a positive future for CCMJ were offered, some of them might come back on board.

Your news is dismaying, not because of cancelling the venue, which is justifiable in terms of unnecessary venue costs, but because you seem to lack hope of a positive future for the organisation, which is only natural when you have been at the centre of it for so long and struggled to make progress. My feeling is that it is important to preserve the possibility of a Christian witness in the ever more complex political arena in which debates on the economy are taking place, and that many more people may come on board if a way can be found to engage with them.

Gian Andreone asked for his message to be circulated to the full list, which has not happened, so I am reproducing it below. As you know, CCMJ has a conventional website - I will add a link below to the page where its latest constitution is displayed. It also has a wordpress site, recently separated off from the Global Table, where relevant papers can be archived and new postings can be contributed. We also recently set up a mailman discussion list, but had not managed to activate it - I mention these as assets of CCMJ. It will be helpful if you can be prepared to advise us of the banking arrangements, and the full details of members, and dates of when membership subscriptions were last paid.

I invite others to respond, in the first instance to let us know the times in the week when they would be available to meet, and an appropriate venue, e.g. SES on a Wednesday before 14th May? Friends House from 4pm on a Wednesday? - and this would include you, so you can attend to hand things over to a new steering group, otherwise, we can engage by email on the handover matters mentioned above, once a way forward has been worked out. Certainly we would want to establish an appropriate way of celebrating the enormous amount of diligent effort you have put into CCMJ over the years, and would rely on you to fill in the history for us.

Looking forward, Mary Fee • <http://www.ccmj.org/wp> • <http://www.ccmj.org/constitution.htm>

15.04.2016, 11:23, "Simon Mouatt":

Thank you for this Mary. I agree with you that we should not be too hasty to assume that there is no viable way forward for the CCMJ. I am sure we can work it out so that a viable Christian witness to contribute towards an inclusive and holistic transformation of an exploitative economy can be formed. To this end I am confident that there will be much support, not just a handful of supporters.

Re: May 14th Appraisal of CCMJ cancelled.

From: "Gian Andreone" <gian.mapr@yandex.com,

Date: Thu, April 21, 2016 7:46 pm.

To: Peter Challen" <peterchallen@gmail.com,

"Mary Fee" <london@letslink.org, "Simon Mouatt"

<simonmouatt@rocketmail.com, CC "Colin Whitmill"

<yajniloc@btinternet.com, "Desmond J Cumberland"

<djcumberland@ntlworld.com, "Janos Abel" <goodworld@email.com, "John

Courtneidge" <john@courtneidgeassociates.com, "Michael Sinclair"

<dmsinclair@yahoo.com, "Steve Lancashire" <stevelanacs@btinternet.com

I am sad that the annual appraisal has been cancelled due to very low participation. However, I do share Mary and Simon's confidence that a viable CCMJ can be developed with time, patience and logic. In the short term, I would like to see an informal agenda circulated to give some structure to our deliberations and demonstrate a degree of professionalism to encourage others to participate. The agenda is for those that can attend the meeting(s) and for those who can't attend, but are willing to contribute their ideas. These ideas can be relayed to those present (with their permission). It is worth reminding that modern technology enables us to contribute, not just in person! We need to demonstrate that there a small group willing to continue the CCMJ. The existence of this small group may encourage others to support us and contribute their ideas, in line with human nature. Our deliberations could take the form of:

- i. Why should the CCMJ exist: /History /Present /Future / Christianity
- ii. Structure: Internal Relationship to existing activities e.g. LGOT.
- iii. Funding
- iv. Accountability
- v. Learning, Objectivity, empiricism and history? Non-

partisan?

vi. A written strategy • A mission statement, goals and objectives? • Annual Appraisal? What will we be appraising?

vii. Technology viii. Under-represented demographics - e.g. women, younger generation and minorities

ix. Handover

x. Once an "informal, loose agenda" has been agreed, it can be circulated to the whole list and a meeting date, time and location can be set (to maximise attendance). Friends House or SES should be excellent locations for many. Peter, I too would like you to share your stewardship of the CCMJ so that we may be reminded of its fascinating journey from the beginning. Look forward. Gian

CCMJ APPRAISAL MAY 2016

Paper by Peter Challen in preparation for 2016 AGM

Tue, May 3, 2016 7:17 am (the day before the group meeting):

At the turn of the year I asked for comments on the purpose, processes and proposals that lie behind the right to claim use of the title CCMJ in readiness for an Appraisal dialogue on May 14th. That day was not good for gathering a fairly representative attendance and so was cancelled. A small group will meet tomorrow, Wednesday 4th May at 4 pm at Quaker House, Euston to consider this appraisal and discuss the future of CCMJ. Now I attempt here to reflect on the overall impression gained from the very varied returns.

In the evolution of our 'agency' over the last 30 years from a tiny UK institution to a wide network even with some of our associates in Ireland, NZ, Australia, Canada, Nigeria, Mexico, any return to a formal organisational model will undermine the confidence of many who in their contribution to this period of appraisal have affirmed the present model of self-organising cells in its strong bio-mimicry.

A basic discernment of the last few years since we put the CCMJ Constitution on ice and adopted the chaplaincy model, partly on a principle of universalism that many adopted last year and partly because we could not when working on such a wide geographical range, is this.....

Through wide dialogue as we developed a political process through the Independent Constitutionalist UK [ICUK] aspect of our deliberations, it became apparent that we are supporting the conscious or unconscious 'doing of theology' and receiving valuable insights by a universal openness and

accessibility rather than coming to the competitive arena with the drag of an organisation and the dangers of rigid positions. 'Christian' in CCMJ indicates a responsibility to the biblical theme of searching for inclusive justice and a commitment to engage with churches as much as with all the agencies with whom we have communicated in a variety of ways. Compassion for churches mired in institutional drag must be a continuing aspect of CCMJ witness.

Inclusive justice can only be generated through the conscious and habitual RECOGNITION OF THE STAKEHOLDERS within THE SEVEN RAINBOW VALUES - Spiritual – Planetary - Ecological -Economic - Community - Social – Personal.

In our present networking as an approach to a contemporary definition of the biblical concept of 'Kin[g]dom of God', we have associates at work in various levels of dialogue in the ordinary language of today, with such agencies as the following organisations where some key aspects of matters we believe in are followed with diligence. Most of them have CCMJ associates in their number: *Tax Justice Network [TJN] - Positive Money - New Economics Foundation [NEF]. - Taxpayers Action Party [TAP] – Together for The Common Good [T4CG] - National Justice and Peace Network [NJPN] - Equality Trust - Citizen's Income [BI and CI] - Critical Thinking – SolaRoof - The Goffin, Exeter - Land Research Trust [LRT] - Coalition for Economic Justice [C4EJ] majoring on Land Valuation Charging - Henry George Foundation [HGF] - Social Credit Secretariat - The UK's Trust companies – Independent Constitutionals UK [ICUK] - Frome's Flat-Pack Democracy - Community Land Trusts [CLT] - The Gandhi Foundation - Innovative studies in Southampton and the Bp Bell Institute – Movement – Compass – ReImagine – Natural Inclusion [NI] - Runnymede Project - and many more*

The institutional model of exploring the relevance of faith under a static constitution did not in 30 years grow more than a few dozen 'members'. Moreover it had almost no impact at all on organisationally driven-on and dragged-down membership churches. We did not greatly advance understanding or acknowledgement of the fundamentals of 'usury' as an exponentially degrading feature embedded and bound up in a Politics falsely separated off from Economics, both ignoring basic aspects of nature's integral creativity or human need for justice as the only path to peace.

Mutual chaplaincy, in an open association respecting self-organising-cells and gradually attracting a sense of common purpose relating both to individuals and to agencies/ organisations, is not another institutional model but an open association working with such inclusive intent and humbly effective learning of the wisdom of aphorisms we have garnered to guide us [see the Collaboration box attached] and relating at many different levels of mutual learning and bold actions. Each week in the Global Table's 'Matters in the Air' we include this footnote:

WE CONTINUE REFLECTING on the value of these three perspectives in our quest for inclusive justice. Inevitably there is overlap between each mode of approach. Each and all add richness to our searching and encouragement to collaboration.

1. The Christian Council for Monetary Justice [CCMJ] – examining enduring wisdom and contemporary evidence about money and its effect on society – utilising resources of the enduring wisdom from current evidence, scriptures, histories, valued publications <http://www.ccmj.org>. Bromsgrove 2010 was a turning point. Positive Money took on the issue of usury, allowing CCMJ to broaden explorations into BOTH-AND, a larger theological perspective on planetary integrity and the nature of an integrated Political-Economy. Then CCMJ helped create and develop the Coalition for Economic Justice [CEJ], some 11 agencies in collaboration. Meanwhile Citizens' Income was developing its own momentum. So, CCMJ was able to concentrate on the need for wider outreach and the development of collaboration around 'inclusive justice.'

2. London Global Open Table [LGOT] – providing an open forum for serving a wider network of good faith with a point of weekly reference. All are welcome to send items for 'Matters in the Air' to indicate where our dialogue and action might take us in each particular week: <http://www.globaltable.org.uk/wp>
Inclusive Justice is examined in a very broad spectrum.

3. Trustees All: and the* Independent Constitutionalists UK* [ICUK] – advocate and advance a targeted initiative by 'principled pragmatism' to take viable, if difficult, steps towards weaving politics and economics – governance and vital trading – into a People's Political-Economy of Trusteeship in Harmony with Nature. We will travel the new path via the 2020 [or earlier] General Election. The ICUK's Manifesto and Charter provide an incremental, imperfect process of evolving a *People's Political-Economy of Trusteeship in the Harmony of Nature:* <http://www.constitutionalists.uk>

CCMJ needs a team of 'jobbing theologians', with minds open to new language and new forms of democracy based in 'principled-pragmatism'; men and women willing to enhance debate and action on the contemporary interpretation of the 'Kin[g]dom of God' without institutional drive or drag. The human sensitivities we have identified in the ICUK guidelines for collaboration [as attached] are a profound interpretation of enabling love in action wherever people meet to pursue elusive inclusive justice. These guidelines and CCMJ itself enable self-organising-cells independently to work together to exercise 'power-with' for the common good to replace the insidious damage caused by institutionalised 'power-over'.

Let CCMJ remain an open community courageously sharing the ministry of good news by life expressed within the 'Covenant of gift and responsive trusteeship'not under contract to slavery. Its financial position since we

relied on voluntary subscriptions without reminder is credit of £78.41 - though there is a donation of £250 awaiting its account, if CCMJ remains an open, voluntary funded chaplaincy model. It would not be available for a formal organisation.

Peter Challen, CCMJ moderator

COLLABORATION: Over time, we have learned that conciliatory dialogue is, among other skills, aided by:

- Remembering that nothing is impossible if we don't mind who gets the credit
- Understanding that servant-leadership is about enabling, not controlling, others
- Sustaining high tolerance for ambiguity
- Welcoming newcomers at their point of entry
- Holding strong convictions tentatively and keeping all boundaries permeable
- Seeking to listen and learn rather than be right
- Ensuring all comments are related to the task
- Remembering that reality lies in the second glance, after dealing with prejudice in the first
- Acknowledging that thinking is difficult and that people move at different speeds
- Remembering that fragility is a mark of value: that which is not fragile may be pretentious
- Throwing out dogma, while preserving any wisdom or poetry that inspired it
- Checking one's own tribalism and egotism by remembering that we share our fragile planet with others
- Being aware that dialogue's ultimate goal is resolution and reconciliation

And two others from Independents For Frome {www.iffrome.org.uk} • *The noble art of losing face will one day save the human race* • Democracy is the art of thinking independently together: <http://www.constitutionalists.uk>

Thu, May 26, 2016 11:37 pm: Re: Progress on CCMJ: from Mary to Peter, cc Simon, Gian, John, Janos

Hi Peter

This evening my attention was drawn to a message added to the top of the minutes of the meeting that was held on 4th May, as follows:

"Please note that this entry was made without the consent usually required and has no standing at this stage. It was not withdrawn when so requested, Such a self-selected committee formed while the 2016 appraisal continues cannot be respected. Please consult Moderator at Peterchallen@gmail.com"

I was astonished that you chose to show such discord in a public space, which if anyone saw it would have been very undermining, and as author of the document, I have now removed the notice. Its wording was inaccurate, because in the circumstances of having cancelled the meeting without any consultation with those who were willing to attend, my view is that it was legitimate for those who came forward to communicate with each other, and create a coherent record of their discussions, in order to be transparent in their efforts to assist you. They have not appointed themselves, their intention is to work as a steering group to prepare for a proper AGM to take place according to CCMJ's legs constitution, there is urgent work to be done, and it would be helpful if you could kindly explain your objections to CCMJ continuing to operate as a legitimate organisation - please don't mention "institutional drag" - there wasn't any.

It has emerged that what prompted you to cancel the meeting was withdrawal of financial support by a colleagues who is now mainly concerned with your other project. Later you told me that you cannot make any decisions about CCMJ without consulting certain (unknown) individuals who are funding it, which is even more concerning, as it demonstrates a lack of democratic process.

I'm only too well aware of the workload pressures you are under, with only limited time to attend meetings, and your main efforts going towards the ICUK project. However, as the country moves perilously close to financial collapse under the present regime, the party most likely to be elected as the next government has requested coherent input from CCMJ enabling them to include a set of monetary reform proposals in their manifesto.

Your disruption of due process in CCMJ could have been damaging, but I'm hoping that the crisis that has galvanised individuals into action, will have a positive effect, and I can only assure you that as far as I'm aware the group's intention is to provide support to enable you to continue being involved. I'm hoping that your action in putting that text on the group's minutes pre-dates the dialogue you have had with Simon and that we can now move forward more positively.

In relation to your personal objections to some members of the group as they have not been attending Global Table meetings, these are so wide-ranging and unfocussed that some people who are time-pressed cannot justify taking time out of their day to attend. Others are uncomfortable in the new location, because it is biased towards a particular solution for monetary reform. Even so, I encouraged John to turn up at the Global

Table last Wednesday, hoping to open up a dialogue between you.

There is an enormous amount of work to be done, either by CCMJ or a successor organisation, if we are going to be able to make a realistic input to the political debate. For the necessary meetings to take place, if you wish to remain involved, we need either to locate a venue that is feasible for you to attend or we can use a technical tool to enable to participate from a distance - and I hope we will be able to arrange this in advance of next Wednesday's meeting (4pm at Friend's House).

..M

Fri, May 27, 2016 10:48 am: **To: Mary from Simon cc Peter, Gian, John, Janos, re Progress on CCMJ**

Dear all.

As promised to Peter, a few reflections on the current and future state of CCMJ specifically addressed to the May 5th group. I enjoyed the gathering at Friends and felt assured that all attendees had honourable intentions and possess the appropriate qualities to make a beneficial contribution to the future of our association. However following several chats with Peter I would like to suggest two key things.

1. The CCMJ currently exists in the form of an association rather than the previous organisational status to which the *[original]* constitutional principles applied. Therefore any reversion to a formally constituted entity should engage in dialogue with **all** of the interested associates.
2. Given the substantive networks, accumulated wisdom and gravitas associated with Peter's role over a substantial number of years, all interested steering group members should work closely with Peter at the centre of proceedings so that any transition to the future occurs at a pace, nature and level that builds on what has been established by him. I therefore suggest that we put our current meetings on hold to work alongside Peter as a mutual chaplaincy. This will honour Peter, provide a suitable role for him in the immediate future and (I suggest) enable all involved to find a comfortable and satisfying role as we move forward together.

Best, Simon

Tue, May 31, 2016 12:12 pm, **from Peter to Simon, John, cc Steve: Re: Progress on CCMJ:**

Dear John and Simon:

Should the Wednesday pm cell decide to become a focus for re-appraisal of USURY today, then may I recommend two books given to me yesterday by one Les Acklam, who might well enjoy participating in such an important cell.
Peter

***SABBATH AS RESISTANCE " SAYING NO TO THE CULTURE OF NOW*
Walter Bruggeman, WESTMINSTER; JOHN KNOX PRESS LOUISVILLE
KENTUCKY**

CONTENTS

Preface	ix
1. Sabbath and the First Commandment	1
2. Resistance to Anxiety (Exodus 20:12-17)	20
3. Resistance to Coercion (Deuteronomy 5:12-14)	34
4. Resistance to Exclusivism (Isaiah 56:3-8)	46
5. Resistance to Multitasking (Amos 8:4-8)	58
6. Sabbath and the Tenth Commandment	69

////////////////////

In our own contemporary context of the rat race of anxiety, the celebration of Sabbath is an act of both resistance and alternative. It is resistance because it is a visible insistence that our lives are not defined by the production and consumption of commodity goods. Such an act of resistance requires enormous intentionality and communal reinforcement amid the barrage of seductive pressures from the insatiable insinuations of the market, with its intrusion into every part of our life from the family to the national budget. ... But Sabbath is not only resistance. It is alternative. It is an alternative to the demanding, chattering, pervasive presence of advertising and its great liturgical claim of professional sports that devour all our 'rest time.' The alternative on offer is the awareness and practice of the claim that we are situated on the receiving end of the gifts of God."

" from the preface

Discussions about the Sabbath often center around moralistic laws and arguments over whether a person should be able to play cards or purchase liquor on Sundays. In this book, popular author Walter Brueggemann writes that the Sabbath is not simply about keeping rules but rather about becoming a whole person and restoring a whole society. Importantly, Brueggemann speaks to a 24/7 society of consumption, a society

in which we live to achieve, accomplish, perform, and possess. We want more, own more, use more, eat more, and drink more. Brueggemann shows readers how keeping the Sabbath allows us to break this restless cycle and focus on what is truly important: God, other people, all life. He offers world-weary Christians a glimpse of a more fulfilling and simpler life through Sabbath observance.

WALTER BRUEGGEMANN is William Marcellus McPheeters Professor Emeritus of Old Testament at Columbia Theological Seminary. An ordained minister in the United Church of Christ, he is the author of dozens of books and hundreds of articles.

*Bible / Contemporary Issues ISBN-13: 978-0-664-23928-2 • <http://www.wjkbooks.com>

////////////////////////////////////

Also by Walter Brueggemann from Westminster John Knox Press
Adding Astonishment: Psalms, Modernity, and the Making of History (Litrary Currents in Biblical Interpretation series) •
Cadences of Hope: Preaching among Exiles • The Collected Sermons of Walter Brueggemann • First and Second Samuel (Interpretation series) • Genesis (Interpretation series) • Great Prayers of the Old Testament • Hope for the World: Mission in a Global Context • Hope within History • An Introduction to the Old Testament; The Canon and Christian Imagination, Second Edition (with Tod A. Linafelt) • Isaiah 1-39 . (Westminster Bible Companion series) • Isaiah 40 66 (Westminster Bible Companion series) • Journey to the Common Good • Living Countertestimony: Conversations with Walter Brueggemann (with Carolyn J. Sharp) • Mandate to Difference: An Invitation to the Contemporary Church • Many Voices, One God: Being Faithful in a Pluralistic World (with George W. Stroup) • Power, Providence, and Personality: Biblcal Insight into Life and Ministry • Reverberations of Faith: A Theological Handbook of Old Testament Themes • Struggling with Scripture (with Brian K. Blount and William C. Placher) • Texts for Preaching: A Lectionary Commentary (with Charles B. Cousar, • Beverly Roberts Gaventa, J. Clinton McCann, and James D. Newsome) • Truth Speaks to Power: The Countercultural Nature of Scripture • Using God's Resources Wisely: Isaiah and Urban Possibility • The Vitality of Old Testament Traditions, Second Edition (with Hans Walter Wolff)

////////////////////////////////////

Adam Hamilton's best-selling book *SEEING GRAY IN A WORLD OF BLACK AND WHITE " where faith and politics meetâ* a New resource for Group Study 2009 prompted persons of faith into

more thoughtful conversations on the political, moral, and religious issues that divide us.

Now, created as a companion piece to the Seeing Gray in a World of Black and White DVD, this Participant Study Guide presents new and original chapters that delve deeper into five of the themes found in the original book and in Hamilton's sermons featured on the DVD. Using thought-provoking presentations by Adam Hamilton on the DVD and insightful discussion questions, small groups will be able to explore in five sessions:

Introduction:

- Where Faith and Politics Meet
- Christ, Christians, and the Culture Wars
- How Should We Live? The Ethics of Jesus
- Spiritual Maturity and Seeing Gray
- What Would Jesus Say to America?

To continue your exploration of these issues, read the complete book, *Seeing Gray in a World of Black and White* (978-0-687-64969-3).

////////////////////////////////////

Also available:

Seeing Gray in a World of Black and White - DVD and Leader Guide (843504001902)

Adam Hamilton is pastor of The United Methodist Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, Kansas, one of the country's most dynamic and distinctive congregations. He is the author of several books, including *Enough: Discovering Joy Through Simplicity and Generosity* and *Making Love Last a Lifetime*, also published by Abingdon Press. Contents

Abingdon Press *<http://www.abingdonpress.com/>
